

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 64

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Joe F. Franklin of Johnson City.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Joe F. Franklin of Johnson City, a gentleman who was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Franklin was born on February 3, 1949, in Charleroi, Pennsylvania, to Joseph F. Franklin and Dorothy M. Franklin; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of University High School in Johnson City, he served in the Air Force from 1969 to 1972, during which time he earned the rank of Sergeant (E-4) as an emergency room technician and was stationed at the Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi, and the Pacific Island of Guam during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, after completing his military service, he attended East Tennessee State University before graduating from the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1976; and

WHEREAS, for a number of years, Mr. Franklin served with acumen and alacrity as a real estate broker in Knoxville, earning the respect of his clients and colleagues alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, he later returned to the Tri-Cities and became an appraiser in 1984 and then a state-certified residential real estate appraiser and served as a member of the National Association of Realtors and the National Association of Appraisers; and

WHEREAS, a man of many interests, Mr. Franklin was an avid fan of R&B music, his love of which eventually led to his learning how to play the tenor saxophone at an early age and joining a local band known as The Epics. Throughout the rest of his life, he played in a number

of different bands and performed at various venues such as Teen Town and the Burning Giraffe, often playing alongside professional musicians such as Percy Sledge and Clifford Curry; and

WHEREAS, Joe Franklin was an active and devout member of the Fountain of Life Bible Church, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his friends and family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his lady companion of over four years, Lana Smith Combs; his son, Bart Franklin; his two grandsons, Tyson and Brooks; his two brothers, Don (Lynn) Franklin and Jeff Franklin; his nieces and nephews; and many loyal and special friends; and

WHEREAS, Joe F. Franklin leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Joe F. Franklin, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Franklin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.